

CLAIMS

1. A method of enabling an application, running on an operating system with a first directory hierarchy, to access files stored on a removable storage medium, in which the
5 following steps occur:
 - (a) the application sends a file request with a path that conforms to the first directory hierarchy; and
 - (b) the path in the file request is translated to an equivalent path that conforms to the second directory hierarchy.
- 10 2. The method of Claim 1 in which the storage medium is a storage medium that is removable from the device and conforms to the Memory Stick standard.
3. The method of Claim 2 in which the translation occurs automatically without
15 the application having to be aware of the translation or the existence of the second directory hierarchy.
4. The method of Claim 1 in which the translation is performed by prefixing a file request path to a root of a drive with an extra path to ensure conformance to the
20 second directory hierarchy.
5. The method of Claim 1 in which the translation is performed by recognizing and skipping a predefined prefix of a file request path to ensure conformance to the second directory hierarchy.
- 25 6. The method of Claim 5 in which recognizing and skipping the predefined prefix is only done once per path on the first occurrence of the predefined prefix.
7. The method of Claim 4 in which the prefixing of an extra path is performed by
30 starting a path lookup at a non-root directory on the second directory hierarchy rather than actually modifying the original path string.
8. The method of Claim 1 in which the translation is performed
existing directory that conforms to the directory hierarchy used by th

to a directory that conforms to the second directory hierarchy.

9. The method of Claim 8 in which the mapping allows file interchange to occur.

5 10. The method of Claim 9 in which the directory that conforms to the second directory hierarchy is a root directory.

11. A portable computing device programmed to enable an application running on it to access files stored on a storage medium, in which the application sends a file
10 request with a path that conforms to a directory hierarchy used by the device operating system, the device being further programmed to translate the path in the file request to an equivalent path that conforms to a second directory hierarchy used by the storage medium, the second directory hierarchy being incompatible with the first.

15 12. A method by which a storage medium with a defined hierarchy may be used on an operating system which was not designed or expected to comply with such defined hierarchy, by creating the appearance to the operating system of a known supported hierarchy.

20 13. The method of Claim 1 in which the storage medium uses the FAT or FAT32 file systems.